

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-02 SSC-01 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-15 L-03

SS-15 NSC-10 SCI-06 NASA-04 IO-13 PER-05 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /109 W

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R 201220Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4323

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGUI 1021

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CT

SUBJECT: PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS CEREMONY

REF BANGUI 1011

1. ATMOSPHERE AT CEREMONY AND INFORMAL TALK WITH BOKASSA WHEN I PRESENTED MY CREDENTIALS SEPT 18 WAS VERY FRIENDLY AND CORDIAL.

2. BOKASSA'S REMARKS IN REPLY TO MINE WERE GRACIOUS AND PAID TRIBUTE TO LONG-STANDING US-CAR FRIENDSHIP. HE NOTED USG'S WILLINGNESS TO REINFORCE THZSE TIES ON PRINCIPLE OF RESPECT FOR NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND NON-INTER-FERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS, AND SAID HE SEES IN NOMINATION OF NEW AMBASSADOR HERE NEW IMPETUS USG INTENDS TO GIVE TO OUR RELATIONS. HE HANDLED AID QUESTION IN GENERAL BUT UNMISTAKABLE TERMS. HE CITED DIFFICULTY OF ACCESS TO OCEAN AND IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE IN CAR'S DEVELOPMENT STRUGGLE AND THEN EXPRESSED HOPE CAR'S TRUE FRIENDS WILL NOT SHRINK FROM DUTY OF PROVIDING ASSISTANCE. HE SAID US IS AMONG THOSE FRIENDLY NATIONS ON WHOM CAR BASES SUCH HOPES AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR UNSELFISH AID GIVEN ALREADY. TEXT FOLLOWS BY AIRGRAM.

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3. FOLLOWING FORMAL CEREMONY I PRESENTED BOKASSA WITH

APOLLO 17 MOON ROCK AND CAR FLAG FOR WHICH HE EXPRESSED PARTICULAR APPRECIATION. IN HIS IMPROMPTU REMARKS ON THIS, HE ASKED ME TO TRANSMIT PROFOUND THANKS TO PRESIDENT NIXON FOR HAVING SENT THIS SYMBOL OF FRIENDSHIP AND PEACE, AND ALSO TO TRANSMIT REGARDS TO ASTRONAUTS LOVELL AND ROOSA WHOSE VISIT HERE LEFT SUCH PROFOUNDLY GOOD IMPRESSION. BOKASSA ALSO TOOK OCCASION TO PRAISE PRESIDENT NIXON FOR HIS DEVOTION TO PEACE, AND FOR THE HONOR HE ENJOYS WORLDWIDE AS "WISEST LEADER OF VALIANT AMERICAN PEOPLE."

4. IN INFORMAL CONVERSATION WE HAD FOLLOWING CEREMONIES, BOKASSA TOLD ME HE WAS VERY PLEASED WITH ARRANGEMENTS FOR FORTHCOMING PRIVATE VISIT TO US. HE MENTIONED THAT HE HAD BEEN UNABLE TO SEE PRESIDENT DURING HIS 1970 VISIT IN CONNECTION WITH UNGA AND HOPED TO BE ABLE TO SEE HIM ON ON OCCASION THIS VISIT.

5. BOKASSA REPLIED TO QUESTION ON ALGIERS NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE WITH SHRUG, STATING IT WAS NOISY, CONTENTIOUS MEETING IN WHIC LITTLE REAL PROGRESS WAS MADE. HE ADDED THAT HE HAD LEFT ALGIERS BEFORE CONFERENCE ENDED.

6. ALL REMARKS MADE DURING CEREMONY RECEIVED FULL RADIO AND GOOD PRESS COVERAGE.
DALE

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Message Attributes

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